

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [0024.1] and [0024.2] beginning at page 4, line 23, with the following amended paragraphs:

[0024.1] Fig 6A is a partial top plan view of an illustrative embodiment ballistic vest of the present invention;

[0024.2] Fig 6B is a partial top plan view of an illustrative embodiment flexible armor member of the present invention;

Please replace paragraph [0040], beginning at page 7, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the illustrative belt 12 including a ballistic insert 70 having a central portion 72 formed of a ballistic material. Opposing upper and lower edge portions 74 and 76 of the belt 12 are formed by a pair of reinforcing members, illustratively ballistic cords 82 and 84 coupled to upper and lower edges 78 and 80 of the central portion 72, thereby defining a ballistic edge reinforcement system 86. While in the present description, the ballistic edge reinforcement system 86 is described in connection with the belt 12, it should be appreciated that the invention may find equal applicability with any article of clothing or article utilizing flexible or soft body armor or ballistic material including, but not limited to, ballistic vests, ballistic pants or any other ballistic garment designed to be worn over the body. ~~An A cut-away of an illustrative ballistic vest 85 including reinforcing members~~ a reinforcing member, such as ballistic ~~cords 82 and 84~~ cord 82, is shown in Fig. 6A. Further, the invention may also find applicability with any other flexible or soft armor application in which a reinforced edge is useful, including, but not limited to: vehicle/vessel/aircraft armor, ballistic shields or bomb/explosive blast mats. ~~An A cut-away of an illustrative flexible armor member 87 including~~ a reinforcing member, such as ballistic cord 82, is shown in Fig. 6B.